



# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

**SAVANNAH RIVER OPERATIONS OFFICE  
AIKEN, SC 29802**

**NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:**

Jim Giusti, DOE, (803) 952-7697  
[james-r.giusti@srs.gov](mailto:james-r.giusti@srs.gov)

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Paivi Nettamo, SRNS, (803) 952-6938  
[paivi.nettamo@srs.gov](mailto:paivi.nettamo@srs.gov)

## **North Augusta Man Starts Work at SRS Thanks to the Recovery Act**

AIKEN, S.C., June 9, 2009 – During these tough economic times, earning a paycheck has become increasingly challenging for many South Carolinians. For one North Augusta sheet-metal worker, a job and a return to economic stability is one result of the Department of Energy's Recovery Act funding at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

James Hall, 43, of North Augusta, is no stranger to employment hardships. As a sheet-metal worker, he has become accustomed to spending extended amounts of time away from home to support his family. Having worked throughout the United States as a skilled member of his craft, Hall is thankful for the recent employment opportunities at SRS funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Hall, who has worked on-and-off at the site throughout his 27-year career, was one of many construction workers that were affected by layoffs and budget cuts as a result of the country's economic downturn. Having spent more than four months unemployed, he found himself in a day-to-day struggle as he awaited the much-needed call for employment from his local sheet-metal union.

"If it weren't for the Recovery Act, I would be forced to take travel jobs across the country," said Hall. "The money being invested at the Savannah River Site affords me an opportunity to be with my family and provide important services to my community."

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## **Hall 2-2-2-2**

Hall will be joined by thousands of new employees as Recovery Act projects are implemented at SRS. DOE and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) expect the projects will take about 30 months to complete and will focus more than \$1.6 billion of funding on projects to cleanup the environment, address legacy waste, and reduce the operational footprint of SRS.

Hall is currently working to decommission P-Reactor. P-reactor is one of the five SRS reactors, and the first of its kind to gain the Environmental Protection Agency, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and DOE's approval for the in-place decommissioning project. This project will chart the course for future decommissioning projects and information learned from the process will be shared broadly within the DOE complex.

"The stimulus plan is a win-win for the site and its workers," said Hall. "The site gets to accelerate the necessary closure of Cold War facilities while preparing for future missions, and I get to put my skills and expertise back to work.."

SRS anticipates that several thousand jobs will be saved or created under the Recovery Act, which will benefit local economies and communities across South Carolina.

When asked what excites him the most about his new job, Hall said with a smile, "I am excited that I've been given an opportunity to be a part of history."

For now, Hall will continue putting his skills to work at SRS's P-Reactor where he can do the work that he loves while staying close to the place that he loves – his South Carolina home.

Additional information on the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management and the Savannah River Site, can be found at <http://www.em.doe.gov> or <http://www.srs.gov>.

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